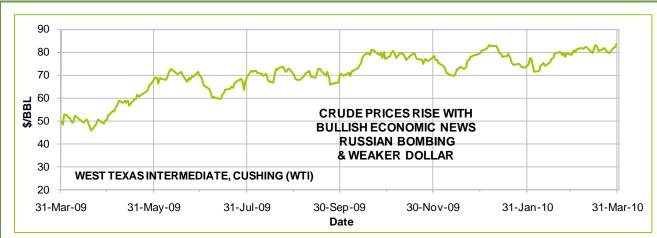


Crude inventories rose by 2.9 million barrels this past week. This was 12% less than the average gain for this time of year of 3.3 million but 12% above the expected gain of 2.6 million. Crude stocks are now 1.3% below last year but 6.5% above the 5-year average. Current inventory levels are at their second highest level for this date in 20 years.

Despite the larger than expected inventory growth, bullish economic news and a weaker dollar sent prices soaring. Spot prices rose by \$3.16 this week and by \$8.93 over the past 7 weeks. At \$83.40 they are \$33.76 (68.0%) higher than a year ago but 42.6% lower than 2008's peak price. Futures prices closed yesterday at \$85.12. They are up \$2.87 for the week and by \$8.24 over the past 7 weeks. They are \$29.18 (52.2%) higher than last year but 41.9% below 2008's peak price.



Natural gas



With reduced heating demand, no significant cooling demand, and a growing number of gas rigs in operation, natural gas inventories rose by 12 BCF this past week. The 23 BCF gain for the past two week period is the largest ever for this time period. The 5-year average is a decline of 64 BCF. At 1,638 BCF, this week's inventory level is only 1.0% lower than a year ago but it has grown to 10.8% above the five-year average

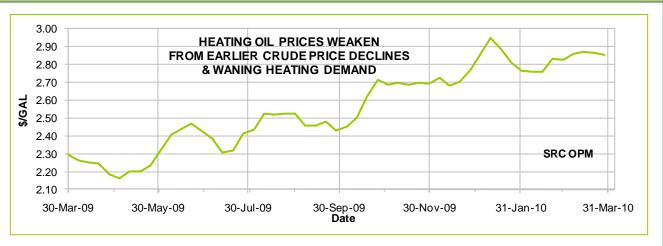
The drawing to a close of the heating season and the large storage levels continue to pressure prices downward. Futures prices fell 7.1 cents this past week, settling at \$4.642 per million BTU. This is 3.8% (18.3 cents) lower than a year ago and 65.2% below the 2008 peak. They have fallen 25% over the past 12 weeks. Spot prices were down 10.0 cents for the week to \$3.920 per million BTU. They are 9.5% higher than a year ago but 70.5% below their 2008 peak price. They have fallen by \$2.500 (39%) over the past 12 weeks.





Distillate stocks fell by 1.1 million barrels this past week. It was equal to the 5-year average decline for this time of year but 21% less than the expected decline of 1.4 million. Inventory levels are still more than ample at 0.3% above last year and 20.7% above the five-year average.

Spot and futures prices followed crude upward this week. The 12 month strip is now at \$2.248/gal, 75.4 cents (50.5%) higher than a year ago. The spot price is at \$2.162 /gal, 82.6 cents (61.8%) above last year. Both spot and futures prices are about half of their 2008 peak prices. Retail prices fell by 0.6 cents this past week. They have risen by 10.8 cents over the past 6 weeks as heating oil has followed crude upward. At \$2.853/gal, prices are 55.8 cents (24.3%) above a year ago but are \$1.91 (40.1%) below the 2008 peak price. The highest price in this week's survey was \$3.499 and the lowest was \$2.459. High inventory levels and warmer weather have limited prices increases this year. According to census data, 49.1% of dwelling units in Connecticut heat with oil.



## **Connecticut Regional Heating Oil Prices**

	FAIRFIELD			HARTFORD			NEW LONDON			
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	
30-Mar-09	2.551	2.899	2.190	2.286	3.490	1.899	2.285	2.399	2.119	
15-Mar-10	3.037	3.499	2.540	2.823	3.049	2.599	2.953	3.499	2.699	
22-Mar-10	3.038	3.499	2.540	2.820	3.049	2.599	2.961	3.499	2.699	
29-Mar-10	3.028	3.499	2.540	2.818	3.049	2.599	2.943	3.499	2.699	
	LITCHFIELD		MIDDLESEX			TOLLAND-WINDHAM				
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	AVG	HIGH	LOW	
30-Mar-09	2.277	2.399	2.099	2.329	2.549	2.199	2.154	2.399	1.999	
15-Mar-10	2.871	2.989	2.749	2.884	3.099	2.740	2.788	2.899	2.700	
22-Mar-10	2.849	2.979	2.749	2.891	3.099	2.740	2.776	2.899	2.650	
29-Mar-10	2.837	2.969	2.749	2.862	2.999	2.740	2.749	2.899	2.600	
	<b>NEW HAVEN</b>			OPM conducts a weekly survey of retail heating oil prices in						
	AVG	HIGH	LOW	Connecticut. These figures reference the most recent results of that survey for the reporting week beginning March 29, 2010. Figures reflect per gallon prices without discount.						
30-Mar-09	2.183	2.499	1.759							
15-Mar-10	2.784	3.049	2.490							
22-Mar-10	2.765	2.999	2.459		For more information, see <a href="www.ct.gov/OPM">www.ct.gov/OPM</a> > Energy Management >					
29-Mar-10	2.755	2.999	2.459	Energy Price and Supply Information						



Propane inventories increased this past week by 0.5 million barrels. This was only the second increase since October of 2009. For this time of year the 5-year average change is a decline of 0.4 million. Since October 9th, inventories have fallen by 47.4 million gallons, 55% greater than the 5-year average decline. Current storage levels now trail last year's levels by 33.1% and they are 11.5% below the five-year average.

Propane spot prices rose by 0.2 cents this past week but have fallen by 28.9 cents over the past 8 weeks. At \$1.113 per gallon yesterday, they are 47.3 cents (73.9%) higher than a year ago but 43.8% lower than their peak 2008 price. According to census data, 2.7% of homes in Connecticut are heated by propane.





Gasoline production rose by 0.1% this past week, imports surged by 14.0%, and implied demand fell by 0.3%. This led to an unexpected inventory gain of 0.3 million barrels. This was in sharp contrast to the 5-year average decline of 1.9 million and an expected decline of 1.7 million. Inventories levels are still ample at 3.9% above last year and 3.8% above the 5-year average. Stocks are at their second highest level for this date since 1993.

Both the 12-month strip and spot price rose this week as they followed crude upward. Wednesday's spot price was \$2.199/gal, \$0.890 (68.0%) higher than last year. The 12-month strip, at \$2.229/gal, was \$0.818 (57.9%) higher than a year ago. Connecticut retail prices fell by 1.0 cents this past week after rising by 11.8 cents over the previous 5 weeks. At \$2.911/gal, retail prices are 78.5 cents (36.9%) higher than a year ago but 33.7% (\$1.48) below 2008's peak.

